

Patriotism: *I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.* —**Edith Cavell**, English nurse who aided allied soldiers during World War I.

HED paralegal recognized for long-time achievements

Story and photo by Alexander Kufel

Shirley Koga, a paralegal specialist in HED Office of Counsel said that she was “astounded” to hear that she was a co-recipient in this year’s Bert P. Pettinato Award for Public Service. The announcement was made July 26 at the Chief Counsel’s Honorary Awards Banquet at West Point, New York.

“I couldn’t think of anything I’ve ever done that would entitle me to such an honor,” said Koga. “I was sure there had been a mistake.”

But, there was no mistake, said attorney Vincent Faggioli, HED chief of counsel. “Shirley has a history of selfless service and glowing reviews from her supervisors for 31 years. To give you an idea of the quality of her contributions, she is the first non-attorney to receive this award. We’re all delighted.”

Adding special significance for Koga is the fact that Bert Pettinato was Pacific Ocean Division counsel for 19 years and she worked for him when she first came to work for the Corps of Engineers.

“Bert was a wonderful man,” she said. “He was a mentor to us all.” She said that they were all very pleased when USACE created the award in Pettinato’s name and it never entered her mind that one day she would be one of the recipients.

The award was established to recognize counsel employees who demonstrate pride in public service through leadership, concern for people, and a personal belief that government service is both a noble calling and a public trust. Abbe Dunning-Newbury, Alaska Engineer District counsel, is co-recipient. Bert Pettinato died in 1993.



Shirley Koga, HED paralegal specialist, proudly shows her award.

Be alarmed... be very alarmed....

Life in Bldg. 230 changed quite a bit during the past two months as a new silent alarm system with motion detectors was installed throughout the HED building. Contractor Bill Edins from the Advantor Corp. pulls some of the wires connecting the various parts of the system.

—Photo by Alexander Kufel



Palau Road...

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Daewoo’s project manager. “It is our first job for the Corps outside Korea and our first job in Micronesia. We are committed to successfully completing it and we will make every effort to overcome difficulties.”

When the 53-mile road is complete it will help transform the Republic of Palau, a remote Micronesian island nation and former U.S. trust territory that has a Compact of Association with the U.S.

Construction of the road is part of a plan to move Palau’s capital from crowded Koror to the relatively wide-open spaces of Melekeok on Babeldaob Island. The road is crucial to opening sparsely populated Babeldaob to a variety of much-desired economic development opportunities.

At present, the few roads on Babeldaob quickly turn into narrow, dirt trails. In moderate rains, these roads quickly turn into impassable quagmires. The paved Palau Compact road will change that and the people of the Republic eagerly await it.

“Everybody is looking forward to seeing it,” said Minister Koshiba. “We have just hired a private firm to do the zoning and master planning on Babeldaob, which is our biggest island and offers potential for development. The direction from our president to me as minister of resources and development is to plan for sustainable development so we can maximize our limited land resources, while protecting the environment.”